



SCOTT WALKER
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF WISCONSIN

P.O. Box 7863
MADISON, WI 53707

April 30, 2012

Mary K. Snyder, President
Board of Education
Kenosha Unified School District
3600 52nd Street
Kenosha, WI 53144

Dr. Michele Hancock
Superintendent of Schools
Kenosha Unified School District
3600 52nd Street
Kenosha, WI 53144

Dear President Snyder and Superintendent Hancock:

Thank you for your recent letter seeking a ninety day window allowing you to enter into discussions with the Kenosha Education Association (KEA) regarding only the issues of pension and healthcare. I applaud and appreciate your efforts to do what is right for our children by once again attempting to secure some participation from KEA in contributing to their pension and healthcare to enable you to help offset your current budget shortfall.

Over the course of the last year, my administration has worked with the legislature to address significant and sizable fiscal deficits at the state and local level by providing long term reforms focused on maximizing flexibility and empowering local leaders with the ability to manage their own budgets and staffing needs.

This includes multiple efforts to give local governments the ability to reach agreements with their unions to save jobs. Specifically:

- Act 32, the state budget, signed into law in June of 2011, provided school districts and technical college districts an opportunity to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to modify compensation or fringe benefits for a 90 day period following the effective date of the budget;
- Act 65, signed into law in November 2011, provided an additional 90 day window for municipal employers to enter into an MOU with their local unions; and
- Act 165, signed into law in March of 2012, created a 30 day window for Milwaukee municipal employers to enter into an MOU with representatives of a collective bargaining unit.

As you point out in your letter, KEA has declined your efforts seeking a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on two separate occasions. In addition to KEA's repeated denials of your efforts at the local level, when Act 165 was being debated in the state legislature, Mary Modder, KEA President, co-signed a letter to the leaders of the Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association stating that legislation allowing districts an

additional window of opportunity to reach agreement would be detrimental to their efforts to recall me from office.

Given KEA's propensity to prioritize politics over our shared efforts to do what is right for our children, I am not optimistic of their desire to reach a deal. In fact, in some regard, it appears that they almost welcome the loss of more than 250 teachers.

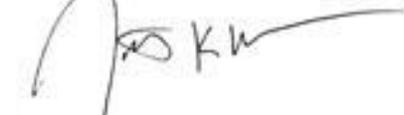
While the law prevents me from unilaterally granting an extension, I am committed to doing what I am able to protect the layoff of teachers and the increase of class sizes. However, I feel it is important for KEA to publicly agree to demonstrate their willingness to honestly engage in these discussions.

As I am sure you are aware, following the enactment of Act 165, the MTEA voted to reject an MOU at the cost of 400 positions now being eliminated. To this end, I encourage you to engage KEA's leadership in discussions. In exchange, if you are successful in getting public support from KEA leadership and their members that they would be willing to agree to changes in contributions to health care and pension, I will pledge my support to work with legislative leaders to provide the statutory authority to make that agreement a reality.

Again, I want to commend you both for your ongoing efforts to do what is right for our children by attempting to work with the Kenosha Education Association to reduce the number of layoffs and increases in class sizes that may result from these layoffs.

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Scott Walker
Governor

cc: David Gallow, KUSD Board Vice President
Carl Bryan, KUSD Board Treasurer
Jo Ann Taube, KUSD Board Clerk
Tamarra Coleman, KUSD Board
Robert Nuzzo, KUSD Board
Rebecca Stevens, KUSD Board
Joseph Kiriaki, KEA President
Senator Robert Wirch
Representative Peter Barca
Representative John Steinbrink
Representative Samantha Kerkman